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Week ended June 5.

Bills of health issued.....	25
Vessels inspected.....	23
Members of crews of outgoing vessels inspected.....	989
Passengers of outgoing vessels inspected.....	705

For the week ended May 29 the mosquito brigade reports 20,000 house inspections; 72 deposits contained larvæ, of which 24 were collections of *Stegomyia*.

The weather continues unusually warm, with heavy rains in the interior.

Report from Matanzas—Inspection of vessels.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Nuñez reports, June 8:

Week ended June 5. Three bills of health were granted to vessels clearing for United States ports in good sanitary condition.

No quarantinable diseases were reported.

Report from Santiago—Inspection of vessels—Leprosy.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Wilson reports, June 2:

Week ended May 29. Bills of health issued to 4 vessels bound for the United States. No vessel was fumigated. No quarantinable disease has been reported. Cases of infectious diseases reported during the week were tuberculosis, 2. Three cases of leprosy, previously reported, are still present.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Report from Hull—Plague among dock rats in February and March, 1909.

The following report by the medical officer of health of Hull, on plague in rats, dated April 14, is forwarded by Consul Ham under date of May 22:

On February 25 a representative of the North Eastern Railway and Dock Company reported that a number of dead rats had been discovered in a shed at the Albert dock.

An immediate investigation was made, resulting in the finding of 29 rats, recently dead, behind a number of bags containing maize, which had been landed per lighter from the steamship *Mikado*, which arrived at Hull from Odessa October 23, 1908, and which was medically inspected, the crew being found all well. The vessel's bill of health, dated October 3, 1908, stated that in Odessa and immediate neighborhood 20 cases of cholera had been established up to that date, 16 of which had died. It was further ascertained that a cat had been found dead in the shed referred to about two months previously, and since that discovery, and prior to February 25, about 20 dead rats had been discovered, 1 or 2 at a time. The cat had been thrown into the River Humber.

In all, 87 rats were found dead, or trapped alive.

The 29 rats collected February 25 were carefully packed, with due precautions, in properly sealed tin boxes and conveyed to the sanatorium for bacteriological examination.

The examination confirmed the suspicions entertained, as did also a subsequent examination of the rats forwarded on February 26 and 27.

The report of bacteriological examination showed that the rats exhibited no external signs of decomposition and had live fleas on them. The glands were not palpable externally, but on dissection the inguinal and axillary glands were found somewhat enlarged, but not showing any hemorrhage. In each case the spleen was much enlarged. The liver and other organs also showed signs of congestion.

Smears from the spleen and glands showed bacilli resembling *Bacillus pestis*. Cultures on blood serum were made, from which bacilli presenting all the characteristics—microscopical, staining, and cultural—of *Bacillus pestis* were obtained.

Examination of rats found March 2, 3, and 12 gave similar results.

The names and addresses of the men engaged in the warehouse were taken, and a daily medical inspection of such persons, extending over a period of three weeks, was carried out, and only the same men, as far as practicable, were employed in the infected shed and adjacent sheds during that period.

A rat catcher was employed to lay traps for the rats.

In addition to the maize, the infected warehouse contained a quantity of pease, onions, and apples in barrels, cases, and hampers, the apples contained in the cases being the articles mostly attacked by the rats. The maize and pease in the bags damaged by rats were screened and rebagged. One hundred empty bags were removed to the disinfecting station and disinfected, and 14 old and damaged bags, together with a quantity of maize, apples, and onions, were destroyed. Special precautions were observed in handling the rats dealt with, iron tongs being used for the purpose. The bodies were dipped in a 20 per cent solution of carbolic acid and afterwards cremated.

The warehouse was subjected to thorough disinfection, all refuse being sprayed with disinfectants, swept up, and destroyed, and the walls and floors sprayed with a 5 per cent solution of carbolic acid.

A circular letter has from time to time been issued to shipowners, warehousemen and others concerned, pointing out that in all the infected towns in India manifestations of contagion from rats to men have been observed, and that the first cases of plague sometimes occurred in warehouses where wheat, cottonseed, or other substances likely to attract rats are stored, and urging that every precaution should be taken for the destruction of rats with a view of preventing the possible spread of disease by the provision of disks and the tarring of mooring ropes while vessels are in port. A list giving the infected and suspicious ports is also periodically circulated, which gives instructions that all persons on board vessels arriving from such districts must be medically examined before being permitted to land.

No increased mortality and no suspicious deaths amongst rats have been observed at the other docks in port.

From December, 1908, to the end of February, 1909, 6 vessels from suspicious and plague-infected districts—namely, Alexandria and Karachi—had discharged cargo on the south side of the dock, where the infected shed is situated.

All vessels arriving from plague and cholera infected ports are medically inspected on arrival, and special inquiries are made as to the discovery of dead rats on board such vessels, but nothing to

excite suspicion has been reported. No doubtful cases of illness amongst any of the crews or passengers have been discovered.

In connection with the outbreak it is interesting to note that in a former outbreak of plague in Hull, in January, 1901, on the arrival of the steamship *Friary*, from Alexandria, at which port at that time plague was stated not to exist, a stray cat went on board the vessel at Alexandria, evidently sick and ailing. It mixed freely amongst the firemen and sailors, who were those afterwards attacked by plague. The cat was thrown overboard previous to the vessel's arrival in port. Nine members of the crew died from plague.

NOTE.—Plague on steamship *Friary* was reported in Public Health Reports, year 1901, pages 167, 264, 270, 321, 323, 370, 975.

Report from Liverpool—Disinfection of steamship Lanfranc on account of yellow fever en route.

The following is received from the Department of State, under date of June 14:

Consul at Liverpool reports, June 13, that the steamship *Lanfranc* arrived at Liverpool June 3, without any sickness on board, and with no developments on board since 4 deaths occurred from yellow fever prior to the arrival of the vessel at Lisbon. The vessel was disinfected several times during the voyage, but was not quarantined at Liverpool. Officially disinfected and given clean bill of health by port authorities. Sails June 15 for Manaos, Brazil.

NOTE.—The steamship *Lanfranc* left Para, Brazil, May 18, for Liverpool via Lisbon. (See report from Lisbon, p. 883.)

GUATEMALA.

Report from Puerto Barrios, fruit port—Stegomyia not numerous.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Ames reports:

Week ended May 29. Present officially estimated population, 350. General sanitary condition of this port and the surrounding country during the week, very good. Few *Stegomyia calopus* present.

Bills of health issued to the following-named vessels:

Date.	Vessel.	Destination.	Number of crew.	Number of passengers from this port.	Number of passengers in transit.
May 25	Chancellor.....	Mobile.....	39	0	0
25	Maria Herrera.....	Habana.....	64	4	0
26	Belize.....	Mobile.....	18	0	0
27	H. T. Inge.....	New Orleans.....	33	5	13

Baggage fumigated on board. Temperature taken of all persons.

Report from Guatemala City—Recurrence of smallpox.

Consul Kent reports, May 29:

There are 6 new cases of smallpox in the lazaretto. Smallpox was declared extinct April 25, and the smallpox hospital closed.

(See Public Health Reports, May 28, 1909, p. 746.)